

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
April 5, 2004 7:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Virginia Bridle, William Sullivan, James Workman  
Cliff Pratt, Rick Griffin  
James Barrington, Town Manager  
Karen Anderson, Administrative Assistant

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

The Board of Selectmen held public hearings in regard to the acceptance of the following grants:

- 1) NH Highway Safety Grant in the amount of \$1,352.88 for DWI Saturation Patrols
- 2) Wellness Grant from the Local Government Center in the amount of \$2,500 for fitness equipment for the police facility
- 3) Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$6,799.63 for a Disaster Recovery Plan
- 4) Highway Safety Grant –High School Area Youth Traffic Enforcement - \$2,725.80
- 5) Highway Safety Grant – Traffic Enforcement for Route 1, Route 1A, Route 101 - \$2,808.00.

Captain Timothy Crotts was present to answer any questions. The Board of Selectmen commended Captain Crotts for his efforts in obtaining grant funds for the Town.

**Mr. Pratt MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen accept the five grants as outlined above.

**Mr. Griffin SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

The Board of Selectmen held the first of two public hearings on the acceptance of drainage easements as required by the Planning Board on Playhouse Circle under the RSA 41-14 (a) process.

There were no public comments and the second hearing on this matter will be held on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

**I. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Mr. Pratt led the audience in the flag salute.

**II. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Polish Dinner

Mrs. Bridle announced that there will be a Polish Dinner held at the Hobbs House on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 7PM featuring Polish food and music.

Food Pantries

All of the local food pantries are in need of donations to assist local residents in need. Mrs. Bridle noted that last Thursday over 100 people were served at the Soup Kitchen. Mr. Griffin noted the increased need and said that he has volunteered at the Soup Kitchen in the past and recalls that the average number of people served was 60.

Route 95 Tolls

Mr. Pratt reminded the Board that the public meeting to discuss the institution of one-way tolls on Route 95 will be held on Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at the Hampton Falls Town Hall. Anyone interested in expressing their opinion about the one-way tolls is urged to share their thoughts.

Mr. Pratt asked the Town Manager if he can find out why there are no automatic toll booths operating on the side toll between 3PM and 7PM. He said that it seems to create a back-up during that period. Mr. Sullivan said that theoretically it is to prevent the back-up of trucks during that period and was started as a result of the serious accident at the side toll a year ago.

Recreation Events

The Easter Egg Dig will take place on Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 AM on the beach across from the Ashworth. Residents are urged to register for this free program.

Summer camp signups will begin on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**Town Manager's ReportWorkers' Compensation

Mr. Barrington reported that Lieutenant Fincher was injured back in October during a training exercise being run by ATF and while he is making improvement, he is still not able to return to work yet. The Town's insurance carrier is proceeding with a claim against the trainers to recoup the town's costs associated with his injury, but that is still a long way from completion. The Town Manager will keep the Board posted as to any new developments.

Hurd Farm

Mr. Barrington noted that Mrs. Goethel has informed the Manager that there are still attempts being made for some grant funding before finalizing the financing the conservation easement for the Hurd Farm. Also, the Trust for Public Land is apparently still working on final language for some of the details. Mr. Barrington has advised Mrs. Goethel to be sure that Town Attorney Mark Gearreald is kept involved in the legal negotiations.

Police Facility

Mr. Violette reports that the weather has been a detriment to the construction on the police station this week, but progress continues with much of the inside activities. There was a concrete pour on the upper floor decking this week, and the town is expecting the majority of the lower floor to be finished next week. Plumbers and electricians are still making progress and the brick masons are working on interior block walls. The exterior brick is now on site.

Cell Tower

Mr. Barrington told the Board that now that the budget for 2004 has been established, he is beginning to look more at items that passed on the town warrant. In that light, the Board should begin thinking about an approach to the cell tower on town property question. A request for proposals is certainly one option that should be discussed.

Surplus Auction

Mr. Barrington told the Board that have been accumulating lists of items for a spring auction, and a couple of ideas have surfaced that may have merit for the Board's consideration. One is to hire a professional auctioneer to handle the process, and another is to advertise some of the more desirable items on e-bay. There is apparently a growing trend among some towns to look to e-bay as an attractive alternative. I'm not familiar with all the rules of selling items on e-bay, but if the Board is interested, we can explore that option.

Mr. Pratt said that he does not have a problem with sending an RFP in regard to the establishment of a cell tower on town land. It is important to increase revenue sources this year. Mr. Barrington said that it is likely that the town would directly lease the land to someone that would build and own a tower since the town does not have the budgeted funds to build a tower.

Request for Signage at Welcome to Hampton Signs

The United Way has been in touch with the town to see if we would allow them to put up some signs on the approaches to town advertising the United Way. They indicated the signs would be approximately 2' x 3' by 3

mounted on standard angle iron poles. Mr. Barrington told the Board that he told the representative that he would seek the Board's direction on this issue.

#### Drakeside Road

Mrs. Bridle told the Manager that she has had several calls regarding the road condition of Drakeside Road. Mr. Barrington said that Mr. Nigrelli assured him that they are getting the road repaired. The asphalt plant is scheduled to open this week and the pavement will be corrected.

#### Insurance Review Committee

Mr. Sullivan said that the Board may need to appoint a Selectmen's representative to the Insurance Review Committee. The minutes of 1999 when the committee was established were reviewed and it was noted that the discussion was to have a committee made up of the Town Manager, a representative of the Board of Selectmen and two experts in the insurance field. The motion, however, was not that specific. Mr. Barrington reminded the Board that a vote of one board does not bind another board.

Mr. Griffin said that he knows Mr. Tortorice and he would be willing to be the representative to that committee. The Board agreed to increase the committee by one member and appoint a Board of Selectmen representative.

**Mrs. Bridle MOTIONED** that Mr. Griffin be the Selectmen's Representative to the Insurance Review Committee.

**Mr. Pratt SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

#### United Way Sign Request

Mr. Pratt asked if the Board would be setting a precedent if they allowed a sign for the United Way. He suggested that they add a smaller sign to the Welcome to Hampton boards at the entrances to town. Mr. Workman was also concerned about adding the signs on separate poles. Mr. Sullivan said that there is still a third Welcome board that has not been put back up after the construction on Exeter Road. Mr. Barrington said that there have been attempts to relocate that sign near its original location on Exeter Road, but it has met with resistance from the State. Mr. Sullivan suggested an alternate location across from the water tower that Mr. Barrington will look into.

#### Town Clock

Mrs. Bridle asked what is going to be done with the town clock. Mr. Barrington said that when the clock was first brought into the town hall some people expressed interest in repairing it and the estimate received was about \$36,000 to make it workable. The Board of Selectmen at that time decided they did not want to put forth a warrant article for those funds. Mr. Sullivan said that he would like to spend the money on keeping the Transfer Station and police on details this year. Mrs. Bridle suggested that the Historical Society may be interested in it.

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

#### 1. Request to use portion of Campbell Property for Agricultural Purpose

Mr. Barrington said that Mr. Hurd has requested permission to utilize a portion of the Hurd Farm for growing corn for his cattle. Mr. Hurd wrote that prior to the town owning the land he used to grow corn on that area. Mr. Pratt said that he did not have a problem with that and if the town ever decided to use the land he would have to give up that right. Mr. Workman said that he would have no problem with that with a waiver of liability. Mr. Workman asked about the use of pesticides and Mr. Pratt assured him that they only use manure.

2. Re-Appointment to CommissionLeased Land Real Estate Commission

**Mr. Pratt MOTIONED** to reappoint Hollis Blake to the Leased Land Real Estate Commission for a five year term.

**Mr. Workman SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

Transfer Station

Mr. Barrington told the Board that based on the Board's discussion last week, the Transfer Station has been left open the regular hours and will continue to be unless the Board states otherwise. Mr. Barrington explained that he has made arrangements for other things to be deferred in order to keep the transfer station open on the weekend hours. Mr. Workman asked what is being given up. Mr. Barrington said that most of the additional cuts were from the Fire Department's non-mandatory training expenses. Mrs. Bridle said that if the town gets the funds back from SAU 21 there will be funds available to cover those costs.

Mr. Pratt said that the Board should wait until they see how much the school is able to fund. Mr. Barrington said that there is some savings with the Transfer Station being open only 8 hours during the day. Mr. Workman said that he is still torn, and will defer to the Fire Chief about the training expenses. He said that he would be more comfortable having an adequately trained fire department rather than the convenience of using the Transfer Station on weekends. Mr. Sullivan asked if there is an arrangement for local businesses to get an annual dumping permit for a set fee, rather than having to pay for each load on a daily basis. Mr. Sullivan said that it is becoming quite a logistical problem. Mr. Barrington said that Mr. Hangen has repeatedly asked for a second scale, but he has resisted that due to concerns with keeping the two systems calibrated the same. Mr. Barrington added that they are looking at some "point of sale" devices to automate the process for efficiency, such as barcodes on stickers that can identify the vehicle and weight quickly.

Mr. Sullivan noted that all weekend long there was a queen size mattress in town square. Mr. Barrington will see that it is taken care of and noted that is one of the reasons it is important to continue with spring cleanup.

Mr. Pratt said that there happens to be a set of boy's sneakers dangling from a wire at the entrance of the Transfer Station on Landing Road and he asked that they be cut down.

Special Revenue Fund Reports

Mrs. Bridle said that she does not understand the figures for the special revenue account for police details on the recent report. Mr. Barrington said that since the account had been used for the details until town meeting the charges had to be backed out resulting in the reversing entries. Mrs. Bridle asked if the reports could be more detailed, so that it is clear what the funds are being used for such as who wages were paid to. Mr. Barrington said that he did not know how much detail could be added to the report, but he would see if the Finance Director could provide additional information.

**IV. MINUTES**

The minutes of March 29, 2004 were accepted as corrected.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Abatement Calculation Error
2. Deed, Termination of Lease, Assignment of Lease, Declaration of Consideration – 23 M Street
3. Entertainment Permit – New England Center for events at The Victoria Inn

**Mr. Workman MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen approve the consent agenda.

**Mr. Pratt SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Gerry Dignam expressed his concerns with the Board's discussion about closing the Transfer Station on weekends. He explained that the voters cut the budget to the default level and the biggest challenge was to find the funds for police details. Mr. Dignam said that he watches his neighbors and children do yard work and they work hard to get to the Transfer Station while it is open. He said that to cut something that the people want sends a message that is vindictive and he asked that the Board of Selectmen support keeping the Transfer Station open on weekends. Mr. Sullivan said that the Board made the decision to keep the Transfer Station open for 8 hours on both Saturday and Sunday.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mrs. Bridle MOTIONED** that the meeting be adjourned. ( 8:08 PM)

**Mr. Pratt SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

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Chairman